



**For Immediate Release:
Thursday, June 4, 2009**

**Contact: Catherine Bakerian
(302) 672-5120
(302) 382-0069 cell**

Markell Launches *Bids.Delaware.Gov* to Make it Easier for Businesses to Compete for State Work

Portal access begins today

Dover – Governor Jack Markell today announced the launch of the State's new online portal for agency bid solicitations, which will become the central repository for Request for Proposal (RFP) bids and Invitation to Bid (ITB) solicitations statewide. The new service will provide a one-stop shopping experience for businesses interested in bidding on a state contract. The portal can be found at www.bids.delaware.gov.

"This new one-stop site could bring more businesses and more bids to the table to help drive down costs on everyday items. It removes hurdles for businesses that want to partner with the state and gives everyone insight into what the state seeks to buy. It lets companies put people to work to build their business and create jobs instead of having to track dozens of sites to be sure they do not miss a chance to offer better prices or service to the state," Markell said.

The launch of the vendor portal is the first piece of a two-part program geared toward centralizing statewide contract bid opportunities for local businesses. The second piece, which will be available to the public no later than August 1, 2009, is a vendor notification system, which will alert service subscribers to specific bid solicitations as soon as they are posted on the portal site.

"These tools will provide our business community with the resources they need to increase partnership with the State and help rebuild our economy one job at a time," said Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Ann Visalli. "The partnership between OMB's Government Support Services, the Department of State's Government Information Center (GIC) and the Department of Technology and Information (DTI) has produced a vitally important service allowing the State to do business more effectively in our own local communities."

"This new online portal allows the State to be more responsive to the needs of our entire business community, while also being a responsible business partner to existing and potential vendors," said Delaware Economic Development Office Director Alan Levin. "By centralizing our bids and reaching out to our local communities with new opportunities for economic development, we are improving business practices and moving forward on a path to future prosperity."